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Switalski Press Release

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**STATE SEN. SWITALSKI PRAISES DECISION TO
RESTORE M-53 INTERCHANGE PROJECT**

(LANSING)—State Senator Mickey Switalski (D-Roseville) praised Governor Jennifer Granholm today for giving the green light for work to begin on the interchange modification for M-53 at Van Dyke Road and 18 ½ Mile Road in Sterling Heights. The project will include new ramps to and from the north on M-53, and grade separation of the skewed M-53/Van Dyke intersection.

“I want to publicly thank Governor Granholm for agreeing to reinstate the Van Dyke interchange project,” said Sen. Switalski. “Money is tight, and the Governor made the tough choice to cut two Macomb County projects. I appreciate her reasons. But I really appreciate her willingness to restore this one.”

The state budget crisis had initially prompted Governor Granholm to propose the elimination of 34 capacity improvement projects, three of which were in Macomb County. The Van Dyke interchange project is one of 17 such projects, initially targeted for elimination, which the Governor has now agreed to reinstate. The north M-53 interchange ramps will connect to an improved local road connector from Van Dyke to Mound along 18 ½ Mile Road, which will be realigned and widened from two to five lanes, with reconfigured intersections at each end.

Governor Granholm was able to save the 17 reinstated projects with \$200 million in road bonds recently approved by the state Transportation Commission. “I applaud the Governor

for finding a creative solution that balances fiscal responsibility with road projects vital to our state's economic development," said Sen. Switalski.

MDOT will complete the design for both modifications in 2003. Construction of the M-53/Van Dyke interchange ramps and grade separation could begin in late 2003 or early 2004.

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